

Dannel P. Malloy

GOVERNOR
STATE OF CONNECTICUT

July 8, 2011

The Honorable Denise Merrill
Secretary of the State
30 Trinity Street
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Madam Secretary:

I am hereby returning, without my signature, House Bill 5482, *An Act Reconstituting the Connecticut Capitol Center Commission*. This bill would change the membership of the Connecticut Capitol Center Commission (the "Commission") and expand the Commission's authority. These legislative changes will diminish the state's ability to develop, purchase or use properties in the area surrounding the State Capitol in a manner that it deems desirable and appropriate. HB 5482 also directly conflicts with a provision in Public Act 11-51, *An Act Implementing the Provisions of the Budget Concerning the Judicial Branch, Child Protection, Criminal Protection, Criminal Justice, Weigh Stations, and Certain State Agency Consolidations*, which implemented the recent agency consolidation plan.

The area around the State Capitol is known as the Capitol Center District. The Capitol Center District is intended to be the central location for the three branches of state government. Development in the Capitol Center District is guided by a master plan. Formerly, the authority to amend and implement the master plan was vested in the Department of Public Works (DPW). The role of the Commission was to review the master plan every five years and forward recommended changes to the Governor and the General Assembly.

Under the recent agency consolidation, DPW was eliminated and its functions were split between the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) and the Department of Construction Services (DCS). Implementation of the agency consolidation plan was a several week negotiation process between the Administration and the General Assembly. One of the results of this process was an agreement that DAS would be given authority over agency space planning functions. Therefore, the bulk of DPW's former responsibilities with respect to the Capitol Center District were transferred to DAS, while a few others were transferred to DCS. Consistent with the agreement reached during the consolidation process, Public Act 11-51 removed the DPW Commissioner as a member of the Commission and the Commissioners of DAS and DCS were added. In all other respects, the Commission's responsibilities and membership remained the same. I signed this bill into law last Thursday, June 30, 2011.

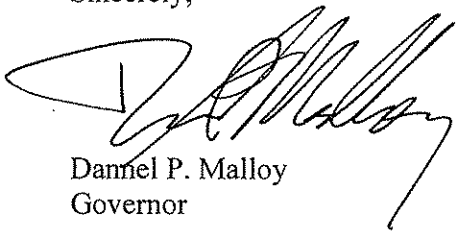
HB 5482 would now dramatically alter the make-up and authority of the Commission. It removes the Commissioners of DAS, DCS, and DECD as members. It also installs the mayor of the city of Hartford as chairperson of the Commission – replacing the Secretary of OPM – and adds several representatives from the city of Hartford, including a City Council member and two representatives from Hartford 2000, Inc. In sum, membership of the Commission under Public Act 11-51 consists of five executive branch members, six legislative appointments, and three representatives of the city of Hartford. Under HB 5482, executive branch representation would be reduced to two and city of Hartford representation would be increased to six.

HB 5482 would also expand the power of the Commission and undermine the Administration's authority by providing that the Commission may revise the master plan – not only review it and recommend changes – and eliminate the right of the DAS Commissioner to amend the plan. The amended plan would be submitted to the General Assembly only, not to me and the General Assembly as Public Act 11-51 dictates. I object to this reduction of executive input and authority into the development of the Capitol Center District, considering that the vast majority of state property in that area is dedicated to use by executive branch agencies.

I agree that the city of Hartford should have input into the development of the Capitol Center District. That input, however, should be balanced with input from the legislative and executive branches of state government. HB 5482 does not reflect such balance. I invite proponents of this bill to discuss with me in the future how best to configure the Commission to ensure that the relevant stakeholders are given an appropriate level of input and authority in the development of the Capitol Center District. I cannot, however, accept the reconstitution of the Commission as set forth in HB 5482.

For these reasons, I disapprove of House Bill 5482, *An Act Reconstituting the Connecticut Capitol Center Commission*. Pursuant to Section 15 of Article Fourth of the Constitution of the State of Connecticut, I am returning House Bill 5482 without my signature.

Sincerely,



Daniel P. Malloy
Governor